

What is claimed is:

1. A method for distributing reusable storage containers, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) obtaining a plurality of reusable storage containers, said plurality of reusable storage containers each comprising a bottom, side walls, a cover moveable from an open position such that articles may be placed and removed from the reusable storage container, and a closed position in which the reusable storage container is closed;
 - b) offering for rent to customers one or more of the reusable storage containers for a period of time;
 - c) accepting to rent by the customer one or more of the reusable storage containers for a period of time;
 - d) receiving a deposit for the reusable storage containers accepted by the customer;
 - e) taking possession by the customer of the one or more of the reusable storage containers for a period of time;
 - f) returning by the customer the one or more of the reusable storage containers; and
 - g) receiving payment from the customer based on the length of time they possessed the one or more reusable storage containers.

2. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 1, wherein said payment received from the customer is based on month to month rental arrangement rates.
3. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 2, wherein said month to month rental arrangement rate is reduced with subsequent month rentals.
4. The rental rate of claim 3, wherein said rate is reduced by a percentage after the first month.
5. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 1, wherein said payment received from the customer is based on a minimum number of said reusable storage containers rented per month.
6. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 1, wherein said payments received from the customer possessing one or more of the reusable storage containers are based on a minimum monthly rate.
7. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 6, wherein said initial minimum monthly rate is adjustable.
8. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 1, wherein said payment received from the customer is based on a per reusable storage container rental rate.
9. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 1, further comprising the step of distributing a plurality of reusable storage containers to one or more fulfillment centers.

10. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 9, wherein said fulfillment centers operate as outlets, and one or more of said outlets are fulfillment centers.
11. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 9, wherein said outlets perform steps: (b), (d), and (g).
12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of receiving a portion of the payment from the customer.
13. Then method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 11, wherein said outlet is a gas station.
14. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 11, wherein said outlet is a grocery store.
15. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 11, wherein said outlet is a truck rental facility.
16. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 11, wherein said outlet is a storage rental facility.
17. The method for distributing reusable storage containers of claim 11, wherein said outlet is a shipping facility.
18. The method of distributing reusable storage containers of claim 1, wherein the deposit comprises a down payment.
19. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of taking possession comprises delivering the reusable storage containers to the customer.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of receiving payment from the customer for the delivery.
21. The method of claim 1, wherein the step are performed sequentially.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the steps are performed sequentially as listed.
23. A distribution system for reusable storage containers, the distribution system comprising:
- a) a plurality of reusable storage containers;
 - b) customers having a desire to obtain a plurality of reusable storage containers;
 - c) an owner controlling said plurality of reusable storage containers;
 - d) one or more fulfillment centers each possessing a portion of the plurality of reusable storage containers; and
 - e) one or more outlets offering for rent one or more of the plurality of reusable storage containers to customers for a period of time.

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22. The distribution system for reusable storage containers of claim 23, wherein said reusable storage containers owned by the owner further comprise a plurality of available container sizes, including but not limited to a standard small, medium, and large size.

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23. The distribution system for reusable storage containers of claim 23, wherein said reusable storage containers owned by the owner further comprise a plurality of available colors, hues and grades of translucency.

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24. The distribution system for reusable storage containers of claim 23, wherein said reusable storage containers owned by the owner further comprise a plurality of available grades of material.

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25. The distribution system for reusable storage containers of claim 23, wherein said reusable storage container cover is hingedly attached to reusable storage container.

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26. The distribution system for reusable storage containers of claim 23, wherein said reusable storage container cover is attached by a snap-on feature.

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27. The distribution system for reusable storage containers of claim 23, wherein said reusable storage containers cover is lockable by various means.

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28. A method for distributing reusable storage containers, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining a plurality of reusable storage containers, said plurality of reusable storage containers each comprising a bottom, side walls, a cover moveable from an open position such that articles may be placed and removed from the reusable storage container, and a closed position in which the reusable storage container is closed, wherein said reusable storage container is constructed primarily from a plastic;
- b) distributing a plurality of reusable storage containers to one or more fulfillment centers;

- c) offering for rent by one or more outlets to customers one or more of the reusable storage containers for a period of time;
- d) accepting to rent by the customer one or more of the reusable storage containers for a period of time;
- e) receiving a deposit for the reusable storage containers accepted by the customer, wherein the deposit comprises a down payment;
- f) delivering to the customer of the one or more of the reusable storage containers for a period of time;
- g) returning by the customer the one or more of the reusable storage containers;
- h) receiving payment from the customer based on the length of time the customer possessed the one or more reusable storage containers, on a month to month rental basis.

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~~29~~. A method for distributing reusable storage containers, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining a plurality of reusable storage containers, said plurality of reusable storage containers each comprising a bottom, side walls, a cover moveable from an open position such that articles may be placed and removed from the reusable storage container, and a closed position in which the reusable storage container is closed;
- b) offering for sale to customers to buy one or more of the reusable storage containers, wherein said offer for sale includes a buy-back option whereby the customer may elect to sell one or more of the reusable storage containers back at a later time;

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- c) accepting the offer for sale by a customer to buy one or more of the reusable storage containers;
- d) receiving a payment for the reusable storage containers accepted by the customer; and
- e) taking possession by the customer of one or more reusable storage containers.

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The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

- f) returning by the customer one or more of the reusable storage containers; and
- g) paying the customer pursuant to the buy-back option.